

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /065 W

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R 141500Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5478

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 2845

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, JM

SUBJECT: CHANGE OF AMBASSADORS RUMORED

REF: KINGSTON 2324

1. RUMORS THAT ALLAN ISAACS, MINISTER OF MINES AND NATURAL RESOURCES, WILL SOON REPLACE DOUGLAS FLETCHER AS JAMAICA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE. A STORY TO THIS EFFECT APPEARED IN THE STAR ON AUGUST 12. IT WAS IMMEDIATELY BUT NOT CATEGORICALLY DENIED BY BOTH MINISTER ISAACS AND A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PM'S OFFICE

2. COMMENT: THIS INCIDENT RECALLS ISAACS' REMARKS ABOUT HIS FUTURE AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT GO TO WASHINGTON AS JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR AT OUR JULY 4 RECEPTION (REFTEL). AS LONG AGO AS LAST MARCH FLETHCHER TOLD THE THEN CHARGE THAT HE HOPED TO RETURN TO JAMAICA SOON BUT WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY FINDING A REPLACEMENT FOR HIMSELF WHO WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL CONCERNED

3. WHILE IT IS POSSIBLY UNCONNECTED WITH THE RUMORS ABOUT ISAACS, THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MINISTER OF STATE VIVIAN BLAKE THAT HE WILL STAND FOR A SEAT IN PARLIAMENT AT A BY-ELECTION TO HELD EARLY NEXT MONTH IS

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WORTH NOTING. HIGHLY RESPECTED IN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND

BUSINESS CIRCLES, BLAKE WOULD BE A NATURAL REPLACEMENT FOR ISAACS SHOULD HE WIN THE ELECTION AND QUALIFY FOR A MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO.

4. ISAACS WOULD ALSO BE A GOOD, IF UNSPECTACULAR, CHOICE AS A REPLACEMENT FOR FLETCHER. DIGNIFIED, JOVIAL AND PRO-AMERICAN, HE WOULD MOVE EASILY IN WASHINGTON CIRCLES. IN ADDITION, THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE AVERSE TO GETTING HIM OUT OF JAMAICA AND OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT WHERE HIS RELATIVE CONSERVATISM HAS BEEN SOMETHING OF AN EMBARRASSMENT. INDEED MANLEY HAS KEPT HIM OUT OF JAMAICA AT ONE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OR ANOTHER A LARGE PART OF THE PAST YEAR. IN WASHINGTON ISAACS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO INTERFERE MATERIALLY WITH HIS GOVERNMENT'S BAUXITE SOLUTIONS OR WITH COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE USG ON THIS SUBJECT SINCE THE PM HAS TAKEN BAUXITE LARGELY INTO HIS OWN HANDS AND HAS TENDED TO SHORT-CIRCUIT WASHINGTON AMBASSADOR AT CRITICAL MOMENTS. GERARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KINGST02845
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740223-0640
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740849/aaaabpml.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KINGSTON 2324
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANGE OF AMBASSADORS RUMORED
TAGS: PDIP, JM, US, (ISAACS, ALLAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005